9 November 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CATIS Demonstration at 460 RTS, HQ TAC

1. General:

On Wednesday, 23 October 1979, DASITT members visited the CATIS installation at the 460th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron attached to Headquarters, Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, VA. People with whom DASITT met were:

Lt. Col. Jim Reynolds
Sr. M. Sgt. Mike Swindle
Chief, Analysis Br. (804) 764-4371
Chief, Exploitation (804) 764-5331
Section
M. Sgt Max Rodgers
Maj. Sue Kubiak
Tech Sgt. Dave Teixeira
Chief, Analysis Br. (804) 764-5331
Chief, ADP Br.

Computer Operator

The commander of the 460 RTS was Col DuVal. The DASITT members attending were:

2. Mission

Current mission of the 460 RTS is changing, explained Lt. Col. Reynolds. Defensive missle OB for the western hemisphere south of the Rio Grande and for Africa (less Egypt) has recently started being exploited as part of the DIA Delegated Production program in second phase. Air OB for the same area (but including Egypt) will be gradually phased in by summer 1981. The 460 RTS has always had the third phase exploitation responsibility for the EUCOM area.

USAF review(s) completed.

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3. Views on Soft Copy

People at the 460 RTS feel they have no mission sufficient to justify the use of soft copy exploitation equipment. It is much cheaper for them to handle the hard copy. However, if soft copy were to become a reality, it would be valuable to allow it access to an extensive, on-line library of PI keys and associated information.

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4. CATIS Demonstration

The two senior sergeants demonstrated the actions of the CATIS to support PI activities. Both felt reasonably at home working at the consoles. One had noticable trouble with parallax in the use of the light pen to select menu items. The display formats containing substantive information appeared very cluttered and seemed as though a user would have to take quite some time getting used to where to look for what. The replacable function key menu on the left pad of keys appeared to give a bit of trouble in making it seat properly (so that it could make the terminal appear like what is intended by the menu). With the two terminals active on the two processor CATIS, delays between information requests and responses were all significantly less than fifteen seconds, usually three to five seconds.

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5. CATIS Experiences

Both sergeants were impressed by the reduction in administrative overhead offered by CATIS, leading to a significant increase in PI productivity. Standardization of reporting format was noted as an improvement over the IDHS way of doing things. Loading a 120,000 target data base had taken approximately seven manmonths of careful manual editing at a CATIS terminal, resulting in a 0.0006% error rate. The low error rate was a source of pride, and was partly due to the CATIS "problem record" paradigm.

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6. CATIS Hardware and Software

Bunker Ramo uses the TAC CATIS as a test bed for software changes before sending them to EUCOM, PACOM, or LANTCOM. Currently the transition from RSX-11D to IAS (operating system) is being checked out at TAC. B-R maintains a programmer full-time at TAC's CATIS. The ADP branch has one programmer and one operator assigned to CATIS per shift.

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The hardware maintenance is provided by AIL under contract with AFIS/IND.

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